

# RANDOLPH COUNTY

## Honorable W. Patrick Whaley

Randolph County Courthouse  
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## Council Priorities

### **1. Adjudicated youth have greater opportunity to receive rehabilitation and treatment to re-enter society.**

*Available funds for detention /shelter bed spaces for evaluations and treatment of adjudicated youth or pre-hearing evaluations.*

### **2. At-risk youth will have greater opportunities to receive needed services.**

*Transportation for after school programs. Funds needed for schools/private contractors for intervention programs, for anger management, drug/alcohol rehab, mentoring program.*

### **3. At-risk youth will have greater opportunities for success.**

*Funding for Alternative School programs for youth with discipline issues, such as CHINS, first time non-violent delinquent youth.*

# Issues

Issues are the primary concerns or problems facing children in the county

## Early Care Education

Children (0 – 5) are provided opportunities to fully develop emotionally, socially, physically, and cognitively and are ready to succeed.

**Children (0-5) provided opportunities to fully develop emotionally, socially, physically and cognitively in order to succeed**

### Action Steps

1) Provide services through collaborating agencies for children to receive necessary and proper care on all levels.

**All children are afforded proper physical and mental health care necessary to succeed**

### Action Steps

- 1) Provide more mental health services/facilities.
- 2) Have more legislation to provide such facilities.
- 3) Collaborate between mental health and education, DHR, and Health Department to provide combined services.

## Economic Security

Children grow up in a financially stable home where the child's basic needs can be met.

**All children in Alabama have access and availability of employment/training to become productive citizens in society**

### Action Steps

- 1) Collaborate with Employment Services, Extension Services and Vocational Schools to help provide opportunities for training & employment.
- 2) Work to provide job training for At-Risk Children. Coordinate GED classes among agencies & schools.

**All children in Alabama have availability to educational & vocational skills**

### Action Steps

- 1) Greater emphasis on high school graduation.
- 2) Offering more GED classes.
- 3) Up-to-date technology for vocational training.

## Education

Children learn the skills necessary to become productive citizens.

### Children learning skills needed to become successful and productive citizens

#### Action Steps

- 1) Implement tutoring programs after school.
- 2) Implement peer support groups/peer/adult/mentors.
- 3) Schools collaborate with private providers (i.e. church based or secular organizations.)

### No child left behind

#### Action Steps

- 1) More GED programs.
- 2) Lower Dropout rate once students turn 16 years of age.
- 3) More teachers' aides for one-on-one work with students.

## Health

Children's (0 - 19) physical and mental well-being in the county.

### Births to unmarried teens

#### Action Steps

- 1) Collaboration between Health Department and DHR.
- 2) Collaboration between Health Department and schools.
- 3) Family Planning classes, exams, and birth control.

### Adequate health insurance

#### Action Steps

- 1) Collaboration between Health Department and DHR.
- 2) Collaboration between Health Department and Medicaid representative.

## Parent Involvement Skills

Parents and guardians participation and effectiveness in fostering an environment for children to become mature, responsible and independent adults.

### Children growing up in a financially stable home where their basic needs can be met

#### Action Steps

- 1) Collaborate with agencies providing programs necessary for job training, life skills.
- 2) Develop partnerships with industry and private sector for placement.
- 3) Implement food banks, services through churches and faith-based organizations.

## **Children having basic needs met with AFDC/TANF**

### **Action Steps**

- 1) Enroll children in entitlement programs to provide services and relief.
- 2) Collaborate with court/state agencies providing these services for children.

## **Safety**

Children live free of abuse, neglect, crime, and drugs.

## **Children living free from crime and drugs**

### **Action Steps**

- 1) Collaborate with agencies offering drug and alcohol abuse programs.
- 2) Collaborate with educators, law enforcement, parents, and referral programs.

## **Children living free from abuse and neglect**

### **Action Steps**

- 1) Collaborate with Advocacy Center and other agencies.
- 2) Provide more Forensic investigators.
- 3) Provide more Safe House bed spaces for battered women and victimized children.

# **Policy Recommendations**

- Available funding and collaboration from state and local agencies for a Family Resource Center
- Available funding to establish an Alternative School and programs for At-Risk youth with discipline problems or Court Referrals. Process needs simplification to make funds accessible to local county agencies.
- Rural Transportation for after school program (Mentoring, Vocational skills, Counseling). Provide funding to private contractors, faith-based organizations for Anger Management, Drug Addiction programs.
- Availability of more detention bed spaces. Incidents of violence among our youth have increased, and alternative sentencing programs don't work on some youth.
- The number of treatment facilities has not grown proportionally in order to successfully treat these children.